Forecasts of natural calamaties by Indian Meteorological Department

226. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Meteorological Department is unable to forecast natural calamities accurately with the available inputs;

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to improve its capabilties to monitor, verify and predict natural calamities more accurately; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to upgrade the scientific know-how to realize this?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At persent India Meteorological Department is providing forecast as per the inputs available to them with their limited infrastructure and manpower resources. However, the Government is revamping and modernizing the India Meteorological Department and it is going to take two to three years. During this time they will be able to acquire equipment for forecasting at accuracy levels which are at par with world standards. The Government will train the manpower in the India Meteorological Department for better weather prediction and use of sophisticated weather models.

Autonomy to scientific institutions

227. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to grant more autonomy to scientific institutions in the country for providing better opportunities to the scientific community to pursue their R&D;

(b) what are the measures Government are taking to codify the intellectual property rights to enable scientists to exercise more claims on their products; and

(c) whether giving deemed university status to CSIR would promote inter-disciplinary studies and research works?